

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7 have been hereby amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 stand rejected for the reasons given in the Office Action. Specifically, claims 1 and 6 (should this be claims 1 and 7?) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cecchini '038. Claims 2 and 7 (claims 2 and 8?) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being directed to subject matter that would have been obvious from Cecchini and Mills '204. The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-5 and 8-9 are directed to subject matter that is allowable over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered and the rejections be withdrawn. Applicants' independent claims have been hereby amended to recite that the controller measures data transition times. This feature of the invention was implied in the language of the original independent claims, and was specifically called out in independent claims 3 and 8. As amended, applicants' independent claims now explicitly recite this aspect of the invention. Moreover, this aspect of the invention has not been addressed in the Office Action and does not appear to be disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully urged to withdraw the rejection.


Formal drawings correcting the informalities noted in the 948 form are being concurrently submitted directly to the Official Draftsman. A courtesy copy of the formal drawings as submitted to the Drawing Review Branch are included for the Examiner's use.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9 is respectfully solicited. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the specification:**

Page 2, paragraph beginning at line 23, has been amended as follows:

Figures 2 and 3 depict[s] exemplary waveforms for explaining a time domain error correction procedure in accordance with the present invention. In particular, [this] these figures [is] show a plot similar to a plot that would be displayed on an oscilloscope of an RS232 serial transmission of an uppercase "F" character (hex character 46) at 9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, and one stop bit. In this example, a single bit width at 9600 baud is reduced from 104.166. . . microseconds to 104 microseconds.

Page 3, paragraph beginning at line 1, has been amended as follows:

Figure [3] 4 schematically depicts a Power Control Device incorporating a digital serial communications hub in accordance with the present invention.

Page 4, paragraph beginning at line 3 has been amended as follows:

A presently preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to Figures 1-[3]4.

In the claims:

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A digital serial communications hub, comprising:
 - (a) a controller; and
 - (b) a plurality of receiver-transmitter units operatively coupled to the controller;wherein the controller is programmed to delay, route and regenerate data at mixed band rates, mixed character framing bits and mixed protocols by, in part, digitizing and quantizing all incoming data in the time domain, including measuring data transition times.

7. (Amended) A method for operating a digital serial communications hub, comprising digitizing and quantizing all incoming data in the time domain, error correcting the data in the time domain, and re-transmitting the error corrected data mixed baud rates, mixed character framing bits and mixed protocols, including measuring data transition times.